



# MassDEP

Drinking Water Program

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## Drinking Water Program Updates

2018-08-30

This week's program director email has these topics of interest:

1. MassDEP has a New Email Address
2. Start-up Tips for Schools and Childcares Regarding Lead and Copper
3. Do You Know How Old Your Assets Are?
4. Meeting Future Workforce Challenges
5. Training

## MassDEP has a New Email Address

The Massachusetts state email domain name has changed as of Tuesday, August 21, 2018.

Instead of [first.last@state.ma.us](mailto:first.last@state.ma.us) we will now use [first.last@mass.gov](mailto:first.last@mass.gov). Please make note of this change to your contact lists.

The old address format will still work for a few weeks.

As it will be impossible to change every document on the web to this new nomenclature at this time, please make a note to use the new addresses whenever contacting MassDEP staff.

## Startup Tips for Schools and Childcares Regarding Lead and Copper

As schools, pre-schools, and group childcare facilities are starting their fall programs, it is now a good time to think about testing for lead and copper in the drinking water.

Many of these facilities have been shut down for the summer or were operated under reduced schedules. This stagnant time, when the water sits in the internal plumbing for long periods, may allow lead and copper to leach into the drinking water from the internal plumbing. MassDEP's Lead and Copper Contamination Act (LCCA Program) in coordination with the EPA's 3Ts program guidance recommend the following:

- All schools and child care facilities should implement flushing of all lines and fixtures when water has been stagnant for prolonged periods of time. Flushing should ensure that the water in the school is now fresh from the distribution main and not from stagnant areas within the facility plumbing.
- Flushing is recommended even if taps have tested below the action level (AL) in a previous year. After this initial flushing the facility can return to its normal flushing program.
- If a facility is starting a new flushing program they can find information on flushing programs in *Fact Sheet Flushing – A Short-Term Solution to Reduce Lead and Copper* found at:  
[https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/09/19/flushfs.pdf?\\_ga=2.165507450.435003709.1535564006-253846962.1533848928](https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2017/09/19/flushfs.pdf?_ga=2.165507450.435003709.1535564006-253846962.1533848928).

If your facility is one that has yet to implement a lead and copper sampling analysis program, the new facility year is a great time to implement one. Your facility's sampling plan should follow the protocol developed by MassDEP's LCCA Program at [http://leadandcoppercontrolact.donahue-institute.org/LCCA\\_Framework\\_4.26.18/story\\_html5.html](http://leadandcoppercontrolact.donahue-institute.org/LCCA_Framework_4.26.18/story_html5.html) or see *Steps to Create and Implement a Sampling Program* at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/sampling-for-lead-and-copper-at-schools-and-childcare-facilities#steps-to-create-and-implement-a-sampling-program>.

- To initiate your sampling of the fixtures identified on your sampling plan, follow the sampling protocol found in the *Collecting Samples from Faucets and Fountains* found at: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/sampling-for-lead-and-copper-at-schools-and-childcare-facilities#collecting-samples-from-faucets-and-fountains>. Protocols for taking samples from special fixtures such as ice machines and for taking follow-up samples after exceeding the AL can also be found on this site.

If your facility finds fixtures that exceeded the AL, you need to consider remediation options. Last year Mass DEP added options for the use of Point of Use Filters (POU). You can find information on selecting and installing POU filters at *Installation of Point-of-Use Devices at Schools or Early Education and Care Facilities that Are Not Registered Public Water Systems* found at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/installation-of-point-of-use-devices-at-schools-or-early-education-and-care-facilities-that-are>. Please read the fact sheet on POU operation and maintenance called *Tips on O&M for POU Devices* found at: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/tips-on-om-for-pou-devices>.

If you need assistance in implementing an LCCA Program at your facility you can contact MassDEP's LCCA Program at 617-292-5770 or at [program.director-dwp@mass.gov](mailto:program.director-dwp@mass.gov).

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## Do You Know How Old Your Assets Are?

By Bridget O'Grady, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

The truth is, it doesn't really matter how old an asset actually is. The age of an asset is only one characteristic that defines an asset, but it is not even close to being the most important. The good news is that a range of factors such as condition, useful life remaining, preventative maintenance history, and corrective maintenance history, are much more important in determining when an asset needs to be replaced than the age of the asset.

Read more: <http://capcertconnections.asdwa.org/2018/08/22/how-do-you-know-how-old-your-assets-are/>

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## Meeting Future Workforce Challenges

The Water Research Foundation presented their new video [Working in Water](#) at ACE18. The video highlights the many important and rewarding reasons for working in the water sector.

[A new report](#) published by the Metropolitan Policy Program at The Brookings Institute explores how to meet future water workforce challenges.

These tools can help to attract new talent to the water sector when job openings occur. The video and report are available at <http://www.waterrf.org/resources/NewsletterStories/WorkinginWater.html>.

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## Training

When you need training please look at the training calendar located at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/water/drinking/drinking-water-training-class-schedules.html> for upcoming trainings.

If you need a refresher on recently given trainings, you can review several training videos located at:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7IutGJB-UfDKtQPF\\_o\\_249m](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJn2AKOcYr7IutGJB-UfDKtQPF_o_249m)

or click here:  **YouTube**

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MassDEP is sending this important drinking water information to all PWS responsible persons who are listed on the state database. If you are no longer the correct responsible person for the PWS please reply with the correct contact information. MassDEP needs one responsible contact person from each PWS.

Operators, consultants, and others who are interested in Drinking Water Program updates are encouraged to request to be subscribed to this email list. You may also request to be unsubscribed by replying to this email.

This MassDEP Program Director technical assistance email is funded by the Safe Drinking Water Act Assessment (Section 70) Program. The Assessment is paid by all consumers of public water in Massachusetts and is collected by public water systems. For more information about the Assessment Program, go to <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/massdep/news/advisory-committees/safe-drinking-water-act-assessment-advisory-committee.html>.

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